

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not disclose a process for making a sorbent composition suitable for desulfurization comprising the steps of (a) admixing zinc oxide and a carrier to provide a support mix; (b) particulating the support mix to provide a support particulate; (c) incorporating said support particulate with a noble metal to provide a promoted particulate comprising an unreduced noble metal; and (d) reducing said promoted particulate to provide a reduced-valence noble metal.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Arnold, Jr. whose telephone number is 571-272-1443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM-6:00 PM; Fridays from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

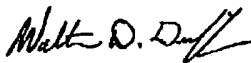
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Ja  
June 16, 2004

  
Walter D. Griffin  
Primary Examiner